

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### In the claims

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 22~~ A method of manufacturing a magnetic recording medium, comprising:  
depositing a magnetic recording layer on a substrate,  
depositing a caplayer on the magnetic recording layer and  
annealing the caplayer *in situ* at a temperature of from about 150°C to about 550°C  
thereby manufacturing said magnetic recording medium, wherein the caplayer comprises Cr and  
wherein the caplayer further comprises Mn.

24. (Previously presented)      The method of claim 23, wherein the Cr content is less than 15 atomic percent.